



INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

January, 1943

The January issue of the IBS Bulletin is devoted to a complete report on the recent Convention.

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The fourth annual Convention of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System was held on December 26 and 27, 1942 at Columbia University. Present were 48 delegates from the following colleges: Antioch, Alabama, Brown, Columbia, Connecticut, Cornell, Hamilton, Harvard, Haverford, Maryland, Ohio University, R. I. State, Swarthmore, Union, Wesleyan, Williams, and Yale.

Because of the war, and the consequent uncertain status of the colleges and the college radio stations under the Army Specialized Training Plan, this convention was a most important one.

S A T U R D A Y

Executive Committee Reports

The Convention opened formally on Saturday morning, with the annual reports by the Executive Committee. George Abraham, as Chairman, discussed in his report the various topics on which discussion seemed to be required during the two days of meetings. His report touched briefly on the following headings:

1. Licensing by the FCC of carrier-current stations.
2. Use of carrier-current stations by the OCD.
3. Personnel problems now being faced by the college stations.
4. War-time uses of college radio.

David W. Borst, Technical Manager, then gave the report for the Technical Department on many of the developments at college stations during the past year. He said that most of his material would be brought out more fully at the Technical Agenda Meeting, a report of which will be found further on in the Bulletin.

Louis M. Bloch, Jr. Business Manager, discussed in his short address, first the gradual development of the IBS through the last few years, and then went

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN
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into a discussion on the many differences between IBS stations and those of the major networks. He reviewed briefly the advertising obtained in the last year, revealed how drastically the war had cut into the continuation of such accounts as Standard Oil of New Jersey, and Beechnut, and then spent the remainder of his report in a discussion of the possibilities involved in greater use of the FM Network.

Following the Executive Committee reports, a delegate from each college gave a summary of the station's activities for the past year. These reports were preceded by introductions of other delegates from the college.

College Reports

- Columbia: President Martin Scheiner gave the report for CURC, discussing the show One Year of War, which would be given by CURC that afternoon.
- Harvard: Report was given by Daniel A. Shepard, newly elected President of the Crimson Network. The Network is now covering 7 undergraduate houses, part of the Yard, and the Naval School, totaling approximately 3,000. The Network is now staffed by about 35 students. The biggest development of the year at Harvard, D.A. said, was the fact that the station is now permitted to take advertising.....Among other programs is their famous Rumor Clinic, a program which originated over a Boston station, and was adapted by the Network. The highlight of the entire year's broadcasting was the appearance of Mrs. Roosevelt over the Crimson Network. Mr. Shepard revealed that in her address she had shown a great deal of foresight, since at that time, she was the only important public figure to counsel college students not to enlist but to remain in college, so that they could be of greater use to the country.
- Brown: Betty Craig Chiarello, a Pembroke student, gave half the report for the Brown Network. She touched upon the formation of the Junior Network at Brown...in which the freshmen who go out for work on the station engineer and produce their own broadcasts. They are on the air several hours a week. After they reach a point at which they are considered properly experienced, they graduate into the Senior Network. The other half of the report was tendered by Gordon Graham, transfer from Cornell, who represented the technical staff.
- Alabama: BRN's report was made by Roy Flynn, President. He told the Convention that the Bama Radio Network had been on the air for one year. BRN broadcasts for an hour every day. One

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

of their outstanding programs, Roy said, was called Just Among Us Girls. It's the female version of a bull session, in which six girls sit in the studio and chat about whatever comes to mind. Their topics include clothes, men, latest news, movies, and anything else which might occur in an informal conversation. The program is rehearsed to a certain extent in that notes are made, but the effect of complete spontaneity is achieved. ERN devotes 15-minute programs to news. Of this time, five minutes is allotted to campus news, five to sports, and five to national and international news. Another program described by Roy Flynn which the assembled delegates found very interesting was one entitled You Don't Say! The title is intended quite literally, because the program is a pronunciation bee. Teams are chosen and it is conducted in straight quiz fashion.

Maryland:

Gilbert H. Cullen, President of the Old Line Network at College Park, gave the report for his station. As one of the newer IBS Trial members, Maryland has made considerable progress on its station. Mr. Cullen explained that the network had found it most advantageous to work with the local Civilian Defense authorities. The OCD uses a very low frequency on the broadcast band to send their signals to air-raid wardens and other civilian defense groups. By using the station facilities, all the wardens and other people are notified simultaneously of black-outs or alerts.

Ohio U.:

As WOUB at Ohio has only been on the air for two broadcasts so far, John D. Metzger, President, stated that he had come to the convention to listen rather than to report. He summarized the progress which had been made up to this point, and said that he hoped that in a year from that date, he would have more to say.

Union:

Paul F. Yergin, President of UCRS, made the report for that station. He discussed broadcasting activities throughout the year, and mentioned the use of FM rebroadcasts. He said that although FM rebroadcasts had been used extensively for a while the staff found that the quality was not too high, and that they had thought it best to cut a considerable portion of the broadcasts out of their schedule, even though this meant reducing their hours on the air.

R.I. State:

Report for the R. I. State College Network was made by Raymond Page. He described mainly their broadcasting of Athletic events, indicating a very complete coverage of home contests.

Antioch:

ABS was represented by Richard Kaplan. Antioch is the school in which students study for three months and work for three months. Richie said that out of a possible 450 students who were at school at one time, ABS had a staff of 50. The sta-

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

tion has a program known as the Coffee Shop Special, which is a remote from the local student hang-out. They ran a direct line to Springfield, Ohio, recently, when a series of talks on post-war planning was going on there, and carried the programs once a week.

Hamilton: Arthur Ward, representing WHC, spoke on their need for a third studio, christened in advance - Studio C. Studios A and B, already in existence, are quite small and do not allow for a studio audience. The projected studio will have room for an audience of about 30 people. A program which has proven very popular at Hamilton is the early morning all-record show. Between each selection, the time is given. Art said that the students listen as they dress in the morning....program helps them get to class on time. Hamilton has made quite a few remote broadcasts this year. WHC did a play-by-play description of their football game with Union, using a telephone line. (Game was a tie.)

Cornell: CRG's representative was Arthur Newman, who described the the studios, which are located in Willard Straight Hall, and the staff, which now numbers 75. CRG wants to increase its coverage with university power lines so that the station will be able to reach 1,000 Navy men.

Williams: Henry E. Niemitz, Business Manager of WMS, spoke briefly on Williams, stressing technical matters, such as channels, circuits, etc. matters which elude the Editor, and stated that WMS is now on the air 28 hours a week. A complete report of the Production set-up at WMS was made for the last Bulletin by William Walker, and will be found in the December issue. Mr. Niemitz said that he therefore did not want to repeat any of this material.

Haverford: John W. Clark, President of the Haverford station, explained the interesting set-up which exists between Haverford and Bryn Mawr -- a mile away. Quite a few Bryn Mawr students are now working on the Haverford station. One of them, Miss Ronny Ravitch, was present at the Convention. John told of the future possibility of a Quaker network, tying together Haverford, Swarthmore & Bryn Mawr.

Wesleyan: WES's representative, Bruce Bernstein, discussed briefly a problem which will face WES when the Navy moves in to a number of buildings on the campus, one of them being the building in which WES is located. He stated that he doesn't know what will be done about this as yet.

Swarthmore: An alumnus of Swarthmore, B. Sheldon Sprague, gave the report for the Swarthmore Radio Network. He stated at the Conven-

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

tion that the Swarthmore station exists on a subsidy from the college. The Network is now the possessor of 4,000 classical records. Swarthmore recently broadcast some intercollegiate debates which could not have been broadcast otherwise, as the major networks do not carry, at this time, debates on controversial issues.

Yale: WOCD's Peter Benzen described the considerable progress made by the Yale station, which has been on the air a little over a year. Peter has been with the station since late in August, but was able to give a good deal of information about its history.

Connecticut U.: Sidney Jaffe, representing UCBS, described the founding of the station, its gradual progress in numbers of hours on the air, until today, it broadcasts 6 hours daily, five days a week. They use a small amount of FM broadcasts, carrying those from W43B Boston. Sidney said that they were very cramped by the size of their studio which is very small, but indicated by his report that UCBS is doing a very good job in spite of this handicap.

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Luncheon, on both days, took place at the Men's Faculty Club. On Saturday, the guest speaker was Mr. Shridharani, author of My India, My America!, who made a brief after-dinner address to the delegates. Mr. Shridharani was particularly interested in IBS plans for over-seas broadcasting. He described the universities and colleges of India, explaining that his first-hand knowledge of Indian students led him to be sure of their enthusiastic reception of plans to exchange broadcasts. Mr. Shridharani ended his talk with an invitation to the delegates to stop by and visit him when they came to Bombay.

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Saturday afternoon was devoted to agenda meetings of the Program, Business, and Technical Departments. Preceding these meetings there was a joint meeting of the three groups in which the main topics under discussion were the various problems facing the college stations at this critical time.

Joint Meeting

Meeting was conducted by George Abraham. One of the main questions raised was: How can the burden on the staff members of the various stations be relieved? It was suggested that a solution of this problem could be found by making transcriptions and exchanging them with other colleges. In this way, records would be sent around the circuit, and each college would receive programs from all the other stations for every single one it sent out. Another idea suggested was that records be made by the individual colleges and broadcast over the FM network, and sent to colleges not covered by the network by transcription. Other suggestions were:

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

1. Use freshmen, and train as many students as possible. (This is being done by many colleges, notably Brown and Alabama.)
2. Use as many girls on the station as possible.
3. Use personnel extensively. At CURC, the system has now been inaugurated in which personnel no longer falls into specialized divisions. Each person on the staff is capable of handling, besides his own job, the other types of work on the station. In this way, engineers can announce, announcers can write scripts, and script writers can engineer, etc.

Another important question raised was: Are the college stations in a precarious position as far as administrations are concerned? It was felt that college administrations would continue to look upon the college stations as extra-curricular activities which could therefore be curtailed or eliminated in time of emergency. Of the many suggestions made on how to remedy this situation, the following are among the most constructive:

1. The college station must work as closely with the government as possible.
2. Programming must be geared to the war effort.
3. Every attempt must be made to tie up programs with aspects of the current world struggle.
4. Programs should be integrated with courses given by the college.

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Following the Joint Committee Meeting, agenda meetings were held, in which the Program & Business Boards met together, and the Technical Board adjourned to another room.

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Program and Business Agenda Meeting

This meeting, of which Naomi Ross Fine was Chairman, concerned itself first with suggestions on how to better the programming of projected FM network shows. Many ideas were presented, including:

1. If a series similar to the "You, the War, and the Future" series is continued, the following items should be included:
 - a. Guest speakers, preferably important army or navy officials.
 - b. Have less important guest speakers, but men closer to the actual fields of combat.
 - c. Have a guest speaker, an interviewer, and a student present. This would make three-way discussions possible, in which the student could represent the collegiate point of view.
2. A series consisting of records made at the individual colleges, exemplifying the best their station is capable of doing.
3. Presentation of live shows from New York, Boston, and other centers from which it is possible to relay, by colleges in the vicinity of those centers.

In line with the ideas expressed earlier as to how the colleges can cut down

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

on the work being done by the stations, and still keep them in existence, script and record exchange were discussed, and it was agreed by resolution, that everything possible must be done to further the existence of script and record libraries.

Another major topic discussed at this meeting was the problem of faulty commercials. Many stations which accept advertising complained of the poor quality and occasional bad taste which characterized many commercial announcements which have been sent out by our advertisers. It was decided, by resolution, that some sort of code must be set up, which will contain in it regulations on the following headings:

1. Time limits for commercials
2. Quality of commercials

It was suggested that invaluable service could be given to the advertiser as well as to the college audience, by suggesting a list of do's and don'ts upon signing a contract. It was also suggested that if business and advertising boards at the respective college stations will send in constructive criticisms on commercial scripts, the advertiser will be in a better position to know what specifically appeals to college audiences and what doesn't.

Technical Agenda Meeting

Meeting was conducted by David W. Borst, IBS Technical Manager and started with a discussion of operating problems brought about by the war. It was brought out that in order to keep a station functioning with a reduced and rapidly changing personnel, not only is it necessary that everyone be well versed in all the operating phases of the station but also that complete records must be kept of the equipment so that repairs may be made, if necessary by a person not intimately familiar with it.

If a station will send in a pencil sketch of the circuits being used, Mr. Borst offered to draw the circuits up in good form on tracing paper and have blue-prints made and returned free of charge. Taking advantage of this offer would greatly simplify the task of getting accurate records of equipment and interconnecting circuits in use at each college.

Next followed a discussion of the various r.f. transmission circuits which have proved successful at various college campuses. The first system described involved the use of high voltage power distribution systems for covering a considerable portion or all of a college campus. It was pointed out that this means of transmission has only found favor recently, as there are many potential dangers associated with its use, but that under certain conditions good results can be obtained. The resulting savings in transmission line charges warrant investigating every campus to determine the feasibility of using high tension lines. The most ideal condition is to find a campus receiving power from an isolated power plant not interconnected with a local public utility. This condition very seldom holds, and so a careful investigation of the campus power system must be made to determine the practicability of using it for r.f. transmission. The r.f. blocking action of power transformers and power factor correcting capacitors was discussed, and it was shown that feeding power into local utilities lines was

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

not impractical provided the right conditions existed. Circuits for coupling to the line in this case were given, (these will appear in the IBS Technical Data Book in the near future). It was again emphasized that careful investigation should precede even the testing of such a system, and then installation should be made only with the full approval of the IBS Technical Department.

The second method of r.f. transmission is to use only the low voltage power circuits carrying 110 or 220 volt power to the campus buildings. Unless the low voltage lines extending to a large number of buildings originate from one source, a system of twisted pair r.f. transmission lines must be erected to feed the light wires at appropriate points. For reaching locations across the street, a telephone line feeding a remote transmitter would have to be used, the transmitter covering as many buildings as desired in the block area. It was noted that by employing by-pass condensers, buildings on the same low voltage circuit as those being covered, could be prevented from receiving the signals if desired. While the system outlined has proved excellent, and requires a much small amount of radio frequency power than the first because the losses in the high voltage distributors transformers are eliminated, it was recognized that the wire required would prevent most schools from installing such a system during times of war.

It was pointed out, however, that starting a programming system even in these times, is not impossible, provided compromise circuits and limited equipment can be accepted. A public address amplifier can be converted into the studio control panel and microphones and phonograph players are still available. Obtaining parts for a transmitter is more difficult. In this connection it was suggested that the local amateurs be contacted, or advertisements for needed equipment be run in the classified ads of a radio amateur magazine such as QST. Replacement volume controls, filter condensers, and tubes are generally available for overhauling any second-hand gear which can be found.

A transmission system which has been used with success on rural campuses and which requires a minimum of material consists of the use of a fine copper wire run between the roof tops of all the college buildings which are to be covered. The line should be run through the attics of the larger buildings to insure adequate reception. Power, at a very low level, is fed the line at some central point. Extreme caution must be taken to prevent more than the allowable radiation level. For this reason, not more than one half a watt of r.f. power is recommended and so the method cannot be used in a city where the background noise level is high. However, by employing a low frequency broadcast channel, about 560 k.c., which is relatively clear of interfering signals, and by running the wires to every building desiring coverage, satisfactory reception is possible. Number 18 or 20 copper wire can be used with success and will prove nearly invisible. The primary winding of a 4000 volt to 220 volt distribution transformer will provide all the wire needed for an installation, and such a transformer can be found in nearly every electrical lab. Strain type porcelain egg-shaped insulators make an excellent support for the wire spans. The line may also be used for audio signals by employing the ground for a return, so it is possible to have remote broadcasts from every building connected to this system.

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

The meeting closed with a discussion of the proper arrangement of studio amplifying and monitoring equipment, emphasizing the value of a volume indicator for monitoring programs. It was pointed out that the minimum IBS standards required the use of some type of volume indicating meter by all stations of Class A status. Since commercial VU meters are difficult to obtain, circuits utilizing an ordinary dc milliammeter movement were discussed. The most flexible way to employ such a meter is to provide a separate channel amplifier for the meter, with an input gain control which is set for proper meter deflection with 100% transmitter modulation. The meter amplifier feeds a small rectifier, which may be a 6H6 connected in a half wave or in a voltage doubling circuit, with the dc milliammeter which is to serve as the volume indicator connected as the rectifier load. A condenser across the meter terminals will introduce a time lag in the operation of the meter, preventing overshooting of the needle due to the light damping in a standard dc meter. A fairly insensitive meter may be used in this circuit if sufficient gain and power are provided in the amplifier feeding the meter rectifier.

Lack of time prevented a discussion of the individual problems of the stations represented. It is therefore suggested now that any such difficulties should be submitted to the IBS Technical Department by letter, as every effort will be made to see that each IBS station is equipped to perform its important campus functions efficiently.

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With the adjournment of the two agenda meetings, official Convention business was over for the day. Delegates who wished to remain, were privileged to hear an outstanding presentation by CURC, the Columbia station. Called One Year of War, it was originally performed on December 7, 1942. It was a cavalcade of the happenings of the past year, in which portions of the more important speeches by Allied leaders were quoted. The program material was excellent, and the production was of very high quality.

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SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 27, various committees were formed, to carry on IBS projects agreed upon in Saturday's meetings. The following committees are now set up to do work in these fields:

FM Program Planning Committee

Columbia,	U. of Maryland	Swarthmore
Yale	Georgetown	Bryn Mawr
Wesleyan	Wellesley	Haverford
Brown	Harvard	R. I. State

(hours decided upon as best for Network broadcasts are those between 8:00 and 10:00 P.M.)

Committee on Civilian Defense in colleges

Maryland	Ohio State
Antioch	Swarthmore

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

Overseas Program Planning Committee

Columbia

Princeton

The remainder of the meeting on Sunday was devoted to nominations for the five officers of the Executive Committee. The following nominations were made by the delegates then present. As these nominations have since been confirmed by ballots cast through the mails, the following are the officers of the Executive Committee for the coming year:

George Abraham	-	Chairman
David W. Borst	-	Technical Manager
Louis M. Bloch, Jr.	-	Business Manager
Leslie Katz	-	Program Manager
Naomi Ross Fine	-	Executive Secretary

After elections, the Convention formally adjourned. CURC declared an open house for the rest of the day, so that delegates who were so inclined could come and look about the Columbia station.

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C O N V E N T I O N H I G H L I G H T S

.....the show on Saturday night.

Tickets were given out for popular radio shows on the major networks for Saturday night. The Editor attended a Blue Network show called "Over Here" produced by the Treasury Department. We noticed the R. I. State delegation, the Alabama delegation, Sidney Jaffe of Connecticut, Bruce Bernstein of Wesleyan, and some CURC members in the audience. Some of the guest stars who appeared at the show were Jack Benny, Mary Livingstone, Dennis Day, Lanny Ross, Jane Frohman, Clifton Fadiman (m.c.), and by remote from the Hotel Pennsylvania, Benny Goodman and orchestra. By remote from Hollywood, there were also Janet Blair, Frank McHugh, and Herbert Marshall.

.....the informal discussion at Sunday's luncheon.

Dave Borst described the very beginnings of campus station broadcasting at Brown, and the first year of "operation". At that time so many wires were used in the different houses that "section managers" had to be appointed to make sure that the maids had not disconnected wires and thrown them away while cleaning up rooms.

.....the presence of Bob Kieve, Ex-President of the Harvard Crimson Network, veteran of three IBS Conventions, who attended both days although the 42nd Street Public Library was calling.

.....the Swarthmore delegation.

In all, seven delegates attended the Convention from Swarthmore. This was the largest group in attendance from any individual college, although Brown was a close second with six students...four from Pembroke, and two from Brown.

INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM BULLETIN

CONVENTION GUEST LIST

Constance Brock.....Pembroke
 Betty C. Chiarello...Pembroke
 Ruth Metz.....Pembroke
 Sonia J. Brown.....Pembroke
 Gordon Graham.....Brown
 Ralph Water^{er}.....Brown

William Thomas.....Alabama
 Roy Flynn.....Alabama
 Howard Silber.....Alabama

Richard Kaplan.....Antioch

Sidney Jaffe.....Connecticut

Victor Komow.....Columbia
 Ira Gabrielson.....Columbia
 William Hutchins.....Columbia
 Martin Scheiner.....Columbia
 Walter Wager.....Columbia

Richard Hol^len.....Cornell
 Arthur Newman.....Cornell

Arthur C. Ward.....Hamilton

L. M. Passano.....Harvard
 Robert Kieve.....Harvard
 D. A. Shepard.....Harvard

Gilbert Cullen.....Maryland
 George Reynolds.....Maryland

Robert Harper.....Haverford
 John W. Clark.....Haverford

Ronny Ravitch.....Bryn Mawr

John D. Metzger.....Ohio U.
 Charles Uniacke.....Ohio U.

A. Siegelman.....R. I. State
 W. William Bloom.....R. I. State
 Robert F. Landry.....R. I. State
 Raymond Page.....R. I. State
 Howard Sherman.....R. I. State

Robert King.....Swarthmore
 Richard Chambers.....Swarthmore
 William Stecher.....Swarthmore
 B. Sheldon Sprague...Swarthmore
 Harriet J. Bender....Swarthmore
 Lyn Granat.....Swarthmore
 David Linton.....Swarthmore

David Platzer.....Union
 Paul F. Yergin.....Union
 G. B. Houck.....Union

Bruce Bernstein.....Wesleyan
 Henry Altman.....Wesleyan

Henry E. Niemitz.....Williams

Peter Benzen.....Yale

George Abraham.....IBS
 David W. Borst.....IBS
 Louis M. Bloch, Jr....IBS
 Leslie Katz.....IBS
 N. R. Fine.....IBS